



# ALASKA

## SURGERYCENTER

February 20, 2024

Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Chair  
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

RE: SB 153 | Flexible 12-Hour Work Shifts

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee:

The Alaska Surgery Center specializes in outpatient, same-day surgical procedures. Our staff includes board certified surgeons and anesthesiologists, registered nurses and medical technicians, professionally trained in surgical and recovery care. We strongly support House Bill 204 and SB 153 legislation to allow more flexibility to employees and we urge its passage.

The current shortage of healthcare professionals is extensive and our recent interviews have shown a desire from, Nurses in particular, that they desire the option of working 12-hour shifts. During multiple interviews, over the past 6-12 months, several candidates asked about working a 12-hour shift. When we explained ambulatory surgery centers were not allowed to offer this shift, many of the nurses we interviewed stated that was the only reason they turned down our offer of employment. They further describe the autonomy and flexibility it gave them with their personal life.

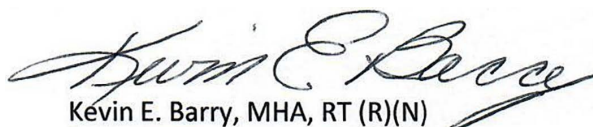
Current state law restricts us from offering our existing and prospective professional employees an optional hiring package by limiting us from offering up to 12-hour shifts. The workforce is evolving: valuing more family time and are choosing other options that are able to offer flexibility. We are placed at a disadvantage and it excludes us from fully evolving to meet the needs of the workforce.

With shortages growing the ability for us to offer flexible work schedules while still meeting the needs of our patients is critical. We need the ability to respond to attract and retain a strong workforce as more professionals desire more flexibility in workdays and hours.

Lastly, surgery centers work with hospitals and are less costly resulting in savings to the healthcare system.

We appreciate you hearing SB 153 and urge passage.

Sincerely,

  
Kevin E. Barry, MHA, RT (R)(N)  
CEO

